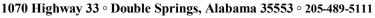


NEWS RELEASE

Bankhead National Forest



Website: www.southernregion@fs.fed.us/alabama



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Nikka Jefferson 205-489-5111

Bankhead Ranger District Will Conduct A Prescribed Burn Today

(Double Springs, Al.) Date February 28, 2008 The Bankhead National Forest is planning to burn 1070 acres today in the vicinity of Moreland – Wilburn Ford area. The wind is expected to be coming out of the W/SW and carrying the smoke to the E/SE.

Later today, smoke may begin to settle in the vicinity of <u>Lakeshore community</u>. Visibility may be reduced along the roads and highways. Please drive using your low-beam headlights. There may also be an increased number of vehicles and heavy equipment along Forest Service roads. Persons with smoke sensitivities should take precautions.

Prescribed fire is used to protect communities from the threat of wildfires and to improve forest health. Hazardous fuel build-up is a concern of the Forest Service and will eventually feed wildfires if unmanaged. Fire managers consider the use of prescribed fire a management tool necessary to improve the overall health of national forests. Prescribed burns are carefully planned and controlled by trained Forest Service fire specialists. If you have any questions, please contact the Bankhead district ranger at (205) 489-5111.